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TC 1700 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: OLSON ET AL. Examiner: HARDEE, JOHN R.  
Serial No.: 09/928,792 Group Art Unit: 1751  
Filed: AUGUST 13, 2001 Docket No.: 163.1213US01  
Title: SOLID DETERGENT COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR  
SOLIDIFYING A DETERGENT COMPOSITION

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 18, 2003.

By: 

Name: Sherry Lumsden

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 18, 2003.

The Office Action mailed on November 18, 2003 includes an election of species requirement. According to the Office Action on page 2: "Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species of solid surfactant, as in an example, even though this requirement is traversed."

It is understood that the Office Action is requesting an election of an example. The request for an election of "solid surfactant" does not make sense. It is pointed out that the claims are directed at a solid detergent composition and a method for solidifying a detergent composition.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite examination, Example 1 is hereby elected, with traverse. The traversal is on the grounds that a request for an election of species has not been

appropriately made, and no justification has been provided for requiring an election of species.

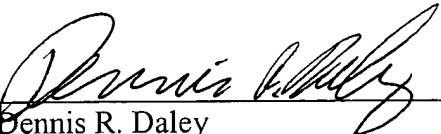
In any event, it is understood that once Example 1 has been searched, the Examiner will extend the search to the remaining species of the claims.

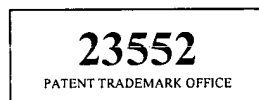
It is believed that this application is in condition for examination. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: December 18, 2003

  
Dennis R. Daley  
Reg. No. 34,994  
DRD:sl

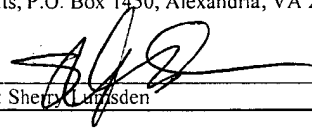


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Applicant: OLSON ET AL. Examiner: HARDEE, JOHN R.  
Serial No.: 09/928,792 Group Art Unit: 1751  
Filed: AUGUST 13, 2001 Docket: 163.1213US01  
Confirmation No.: 8268  
Title: SOLID DETERGENT COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR SOLIDIFYING A  
DETERGENT COMPOSITION

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By:   
Name: Sherry L. Andersen

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

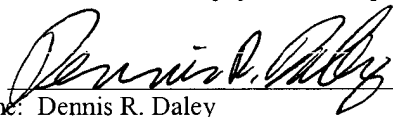
Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Response
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:   
Name: Dennis R. Daley  
Reg. No.: 34,994  
DRD:sll